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Scarletia

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This fan-fiction article, **Scarletia**, was written by [Witcher190](#). Please do not edit this fiction without the writer's permission.

This article is an expansion based on a canon element. For canon information on this topic, follow the link to The Witcher Wiki: [Scarletia](#).

The **scarletia** is a type of giant serpent commonly found in arid desert environments. They have been reported in places such as the Korath Desert, the Wastelands, [Ofir](#), and [Zerrikania](#). Unlike many other creatures, scarletias are native to [the Continent](#), meaning that silver does not affect them. After the [First Conjunction of the Spheres](#), the [gigascorpion](#) became their natural predator. According to some Nordling crazy rumors, mages of [Melukka](#) and [Ofir](#) have scarletias as pets, which they control through the use of flutes.

Scarletia	
Physiology	
Height	Bigger than a gigascorpion
Length	Bigger than a gigascorpion
Eyes	Yellow
Ecology	
Lifespan	20 years
Intelligence	Beast level
Range	Deserts
Habitat	Deserts

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Diet	Carnivore
Prey	Gigascorpion



Appearance

The scarletia has a long, coiled body and is often seen rearing up with its upper third raised in a striking pose. The head of the scarletia is large and somewhat triangular, typical of many venomous snakes, with prominent scales covering its surface and yellow eyes. The serpent's forked tongue is usually extended, adding to its menacing appearance. The tail of the scarletia when someone found one, is usually coiled underneath, giving the impression to its prey of readiness to either strike or move quickly.

Scarletias are usually larger than their predators, the gigascorpions, but smaller than a rock dragon. It is believed that the gigascorpions developed their vicious pincers—so powerful that their swing is nearly impossible to parry—to confront the scarletias effectively.

Behavior and abilities

One of the most remarkable attributes of the scarletia is its ability to blend seamlessly into the arid desert terrain. Their scales, which shimmer in hues of red and brown, provide perfect camouflage against the sands and rocks of their natural habitat. This camouflage makes them exceedingly difficult to spot, allowing them to lie in wait for unsuspecting prey. Additionally, their ability to remain motionless for extended periods further enhances their stealth, making them virtually invisible to both prey and potential threats. Some subspecies have been reported to possess venom.

The scarletia's keen senses and adaptability contribute to their elusive nature. They can detect the slightest vibrations in the ground, alerting them to the presence of other creatures long before they come into view. This heightened awareness, combined with their swift and powerful strikes, makes them formidable hunters. Their unpredictable movements add another layer of danger, as they can swiftly change direction and tactics, confounding those who attempt to track or hunt them.

In addition to their physical prowess, scarletias are also known for their resilience. They can survive extreme temperatures and prolonged periods without food or water, traits that make them well-suited to the harsh desert environment.

Scarletias are solitary creatures, rarely seen in groups. They prefer to hunt alone, using their camouflage and patience to ambush prey. Despite their solitary nature, they are highly territorial and will fiercely defend their hunting grounds from intruders, whether they are other scarletias or different predators.

Biology

Unlike gigascorpions, scarletias have shorter lifespans, living around 20 years. Despite their relatively short lives, they reach maturity quickly, typically within two to three years. This rapid growth is essential for their survival in the competitive and dangerous desert environment. Female scarletias lay clutches of eggs in hidden burrows or beneath rocks, where they are guarded until they hatch. The young scarletias are vulnerable during their early stages and rely heavily on their camouflage and quick reflexes to avoid becoming prey.

Scarletias possess a unique respiratory system adapted to conserve water, allowing them to thrive in the arid desert conditions. Their metabolism is slow, enabling them to go without food for extended periods. When food is scarce, they enter a state of torpor, reducing their metabolic rate further to conserve energy.

Their diet primarily consists of small mammals, birds, and other reptiles. Larger scarletias have been known to take down more formidable prey, including other desert predators. Their powerful jaws and sharp teeth allow them to deliver fatal bites, and their venom, in the case of venomous subspecies, can immobilize prey rapidly.

The interaction between scarletias and their primary predators, the gigascorpions, is a constant battle for survival. While gigascorpions are formidable foes with their armored exoskeletons and deadly pincers, scarletias rely on their agility, strength, and stealth to outmaneuver and strike decisively.

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